

EMS Run - March 4, 1998 - At St. Michael's, Dane

Crew: Vaughn Frye
Bob Bernards
Shirley Nelson

Report by: Shirley Nelson

Paged for a man down at St. Michael's, Dane, at approximately 7:00 AM. Enroute we were advised not to enter the scene...(a possible crime scene).

We drove ambulance up inclined driveway part way up. 3 cars were parked a few feet in front of us near the sidewalk intersecting area. We got out of the ambulance..there were no law enforcement officers there when we arrived. They did arrive shortly thereafter.

I saw someone motioning for us to come in a frantic manner at a door on the right hand side (my facing the building). He then proceeded toward us. A slender young man, he identified himself as Brian and a teacher at St. Michael's. He had on a white shirt and dark pants, approx. 6' in height, dark hair, blood on his hands and visibly upset. He stated he had called 911, and that he had found Fr. Kunz with his throat slashed. He demonstrated the "throat slashed" with his hand/finger when he made that statement. I asked him if the doors were locked. He said no, and that was unusual. He said he was coming to school to teach. He saw someone lying on the floor, thinking initially that it was a student. He said the person was lying face down, and he demonstrated a position that appeared as though the arms were up/forward, and he rolled the person over (to be face up). It was Fr. Kunz. The officer advised that we take the man into our rig, and do not wash his bloody hands, etc. The man was upset, and starting praying. Later he was praying with a rosary. The man stated, as well as the officer's confirmation, that rigormortus had set in...indicating that his arms were stiffened in their position. He stated that there was a pool of blood by the body. The officer confirmed that there was no need for any life support measures. The young man said he did not see any knife or other objects, but may not have noticed.

Due to the timing of the call, children/teachers/parents were arriving shortly after we arrived, preparing for a church service at 8:00, and school. As law enforcement taped the scene, we moved our rig to the street and intercepted people arriving. I decided to defer arriving children/teachers to the Fire Dept./Community Ctr. across the street. The building was locked so we paged the Fire Chief of Dane Fire Dept. to come to the Fire Dept. When he arrived we asked him to open the building for the children/teachers. Arriving teachers assisted in moving children to the Fire Dept. Later the principal arrived...a decision was made to cancel school.

The man needed to use a bathroom and was escorted to the Dane Police Dept. by Officer Doug Gehrke.

Sheriff Dept. released Waunakee Area EMS from the scene. At the time we were released, the crime investigation unit and the coroner had not yet arrived. No news media were there at the time we were there.

(To my knowledge, no one arriving was told any details or information on the circumstances of the event. The only person who may have been told some general information by the officers was the principal, who was let into the rig to briefly speak to the teacher who discovered the scene. I believe Bob Bernards was with them during this conversation.)